

also served on the Jackson County Green Ways Committee, on the Board of Directors of Cullowhee Fire Department, and as the President of the Jackson County Habitat for Humanity. Additionally, Mr. Farmer worked with Jackson County Housing to construct elderly housing and with the Jackson County Department on Aging to build access ramps for the disabled elderly. He was also an active member of the First Baptist Church of Sylva since 1965, where he often served as a Deacon.

I am proud to have had Mr. Farmer as a constituent. I extend my condolences to his family and offer my most sincere appreciation for his service to North Carolina.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2346,
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the War Supplemental Appropriations Bill, H.R. 2346.

The illegitimate war in Iraq undermines our credibility on the world stage as we continue to occupy the country. Over 4,300 Americans and estimated hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians have been killed in a war fought over lies. The conflict in Afghanistan was ignored while the previous administration led the American people into war with Iraq. We need to withdraw our troops and direct our support to humanitarian aid and a stable civilian government.

These wars have cost us the ability to properly address the biggest problems facing our country. Healthcare reform, our economy, and reforming energy policy are top priorities of Congress. We cannot justify hundreds of billions of dollars for these wars at the expense of the American taxpayer.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the war.

HONORING CHARLES M.
CHAMBERS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of an important community leader and a good friend, Charles M. Chambers, who passed away on Wednesday, May 20, 2009.

Mr. Chambers served from 1993 to 2006 as Lawrence Technological University's fifth president and as the University's first chancellor from February 1, 2006 to July 1, 2006, when he was named president emeritus. His dedication to higher education and technology reshaped the business acumen at Lawrence Tech and allowed the University to enjoy unprecedented fund acquisition to enhance curriculum and facilities throughout the campus.

During his tenure, Chambers led the institution in investing millions of dollars in upgrading older facilities on the University's 102-acre

campus. In addition, the University constructed several new facilities, including the University Technology and Learning Center, the Student Housing Center-North, the A. Alfred Taubman Student Services Center, and the Center for Innovative Materials Research. Growth and expansion of applied research and academic offerings accelerated during his presidency, including the launch of Lawrence Tech's first doctoral programs and the establishment of learning centers and higher education partnerships elsewhere in Michigan, Canada, Germany, Mexico, and Asia.

Dr. Chambers' career accomplishments are testaments of his passion for revitalizing the scientific community and enhancing higher education. In the 1960s, he was an aerospace engineer with NASA, where he participated in the Apollo space program. He was president of the American Foundation for Biological Sciences, a consortium of over fifty scientific laboratories, museums, and societies. In addition, he served on the faculties of Harvard University, the University of Alabama, and George Washington University, where he was a dean for graduate evening programs.

Dr. Chambers was also involved in economic development initiatives for southeast Michigan. A founding director of Oakland County's Automation Alley, he also served on the advisory board of the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Detroit Renaissance Steering Committee, the Oakland County Workforce Development Board, the WIRED (Workforce Investment for Regional Economic Development) and the Education Foundation of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. He was also a member of the Oakland County Business Roundtable.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Chambers, a genuine leader in the field of education, science and technology. I join with the Chambers family, and the extended family of Lawrence Technological University, in mourning his loss, celebrating his life, and paying tribute to him for all the good work he did for others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained last evening and missed rollcall vote 350. If present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING WOMEN AIR SERVICE
PILOTS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for legislation recognizing the Women Air Service Pilots with a Congressional Gold Medal. These brave women served the nation at a pivotal moment in our history. I'm proud that we in Congress have finally commended them for their pioneering spirit and selfless dedication during World War II.

The Women Air Service Pilots, commonly known as WASP, were the first women in history authorized to fly American military aircraft. These courageous women volunteered to fly noncombat missions so that every available male pilot could be deployed into combat, contributing to the successful completion of U.S. Air force missions in the South Pacific and on the Western Front.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, WASPs used their well-honed skills to dutifully service military aircraft, providing the U.S. Army Air force with an invaluable assistance. Thanks to their rigorous training, by 1944 the WASP had flown every aircraft in the army's inventory—including P-59 jet fighters. The WASP flew searchlight tracking missions, ferried and tested planes, performed flight checks, towed targets for anti-aircraft gunnery practice, and instructed male pilot cadets, in addition to performing several other valuable tasks.

While more than 25,000 women applied for WASP training, only 1,879 candidates were accepted. Of these, only 1,074 successfully completed the grueling program at Avenger Field, the nation's largest all-female air base. Though WASP participants underwent the same rigorous training as male cadets, these dedicated individuals were refused recognition as a women's service within the U.S. Army Air Force and were denied veterans' benefits for over 30 years, finally gaining full recognition in 1977.

I'm honored to represent five former Women Air Service Pilots who reside in my Congressional District: Eileen W. Ferguson, Geraldine F. Olinger, Alyce S. Rohrer, Margaret M. Weiss, and Lillian G. Wray. These pioneering women answered the call of duty with enthusiasm and vigor, offering their great skills in service of our nation. I thank you for your service and congratulate you on your long overdue honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, on June 10, 2009, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 328, had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, on June 11, 2009, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 329, had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER ERIC STANLEY
HOWE

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding serviceman in the Fifth District of Ohio. Chief Petty Officer Eric Stanley Howe is retiring from the United States Navy after Twenty years of service.

Officer Howe has earned numerous decorations and promotions throughout his years of